

Serial No.: 10/810,931
Inventor(s): Masters et al.

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280
Case No.: 5709

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 25 are currently pending in the application. Of these Claims, 1 - 19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the withdrawal of the objections. However, the Examiner has maintained the rejection of Claims 20-25 under 35 USC 103(a) over Yilgor et al. (US 5,521,273) in view of Lacy (US 3,173,189A) for the reasons set forth in the prior rejection. Specifically, the Examiner "acknowledges that the primary references teaching two coating layers" but maintains that "taken collectively, they form a single coating on the surface, which is all the instant claims recite." In addition, the Examiner has apparently maintained the position that the claimed relative amounts of the components of the coating are simply variables that would have been achieved by routine experimentation. Applicant's arguments regarding the lack of any disclosure or suggestion in the references to combine their respective teachings, and the reference to the fact the hypothetical combination posed would not achieve the claimed invention, were addressed with a statement that the properties were not claimed. However, Applicant maintains that the properties need not be in the claims, but were supportive of the impropriety of the rejection.

Although Applicant maintains that such is unnecessary in that the language was clear, when interpreted in light of the specification, as to the meaning of "a coating", Claim 25 has nonetheless been amended to recite the step of providing a coating comprising a combination of a first urethane polymer having an elongation at break of greater than or equal to 500% and a second urethane polymer having an elongation at break of less than 500%, wherein the ratio of the first urethane polymer to said second urethane polymer is about 10:1 on a solids basis, and coating said fabric with said coating. It is clear that the references relied upon in the pending rejection do not teach applying a coating including this combination, nor the ratios of first and second urethane polymers claimed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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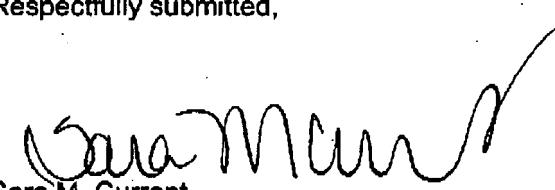
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CONCLUSION

AUG 03 2007

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find that any issues remain outstanding following consideration of this Response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in the interest of resolving such matters in an expedient manner.

Respectfully submitted,



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